WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1. An apparatus for use in a hybrid fiber coax (HFC) network
2	to provide the HFC forward path spectrum from the head end to a network fiber
3	node, the apparatus comprising:
4	a head end modulator directly receiving a switchable digital data
5	signal and internally processing the switchable digital data signal to produce the
6	HFC forward path spectrum that directly drives the network fiber node.
1	2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the head end modulator
2	generates an analog optical signal for the network fiber node.
1	3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the head end modulator
2	processes the switchable digital data signal to dynamically allocate bandwidth to
3	different services.
1	4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received in the form of a 1GigE signal.
1	5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received in the form of a 10GigE signal.
<u> </u>	6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received as a single digital data signal input.
1	7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received as a plurality of digital data signal inputs.
1	8. A method for use in a hybrid fiber coax (HFC) network to
2	provide the HFC forward path spectrum from the head end to a network fiber node,
3	the method comprising:
4	directly receiving a switchable digital data signal at a head end
5	modulator; and

6	processing the switchable digital data signal, at the head end
7	modulator, to produce the HFC forward path spectrum that directly drives the
8	network fiber node.
1	9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
2	generating an analog optical signal, with the head end modulator, for
3	the network fiber node.
1	10. The method of claim 8 wherein the head end modulator
2	processes the switchable digital data signal to dynamically allocate bandwidth to
3	different services.
1	11. The method of claim 8 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received in the form of a 1GigE signal.
1	12. The method of claim 8 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received in the form of a 10GigE signal.
1	13. The method of claim 8 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received as a single digital data signal input.
1	14. The method of claim 8 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received as a plurality of digital data signal inputs.
1	15. A system for use in a hybrid fiber coax (HFC) network to
2	provide the HFC forward path spectrum from the head end to a plurality of network
3	fiber nodes, the system comprising:
4	a plurality of head end modulators, each modulator directly receiving
5	a switchable digital data signal and internally processing the switchable digital data
6	signal to produce the HFC forward path spectrum that directly drives an associated
7	network fiber node,

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8	wherein each individual modulator processes its received switchable
9	digital data signal to dynamically allocate bandwidth to different services to provide
10	an essentially narrow cast approach among the plurality of modulators.
1	16. The system of claim 15 wherein each head end modulator
2	generates an analog optical signal for the associated network fiber node.
. 1	17. The system of claim 15 wherein the switchable digital data
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2	signal is received in the form of a 1GigE signal.
1	18. The system of claim 15 wherein the switchable digital data
2	signal is received in the form of a 10GigE signal.
1	19. The system of claim 15 wherein the switchable digital data

signal is received as a single digital data signal input.